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Date of Deposit: July 8, 2002

Attorney Ref. 18242-507 (VI-0014-P1)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Hammond et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/543,188 EXAMINER: Zachariah Lucas
FILING DATE: September 10, 1998 ART UNIT: 1648
TITLE: PRION-BINDING LIGANDS AND METHODS OF USING SAME

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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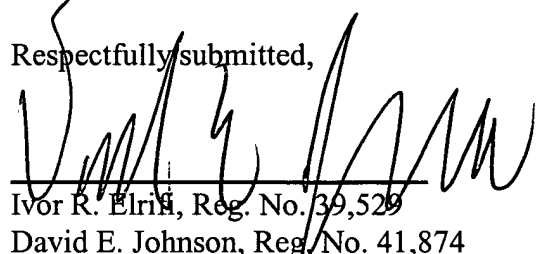
In response to the Office Action mailed on April 9, 2002, attached please find:

1. Response to April 9, 2002 Office Action (4 pgs.);
2. Petition for Extension of Time (1 pg);
3. Check (#13332) in the amount of \$200.00 in payment of extension fee; and,
4. Return postcard.

If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete, the Mail Room is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at telephone (617) 542-6000.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 18242-507 (VI-0014-P1).

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: July 8, 2002

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Attorney Ref. 18242-507 (VI-0014-24)

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Response to April 9, 2002 Office Action

In response to the Office Action dated April 9, 2002 ("Office Action") imposing requirements for restriction, please amend the claims as follows and consider the following remarks:

In the claims

C1
17. (Amended) The peptide ligand of claim 1, wherein said peptide ligand comprises the amino acid sequence of a peptide with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 3-29 or SEQ ID NO:30.

C2
40. (Amended) A method of detecting the presence of a prion protein in a biological fluid, the method comprising

- a) contacting the biological fluid with the ligand of claim 1 under conditions sufficient to cause formation of a complex between said prion protein, if present, in said biological fluid and said ligand; and
- b) detecting said complex, thereby detecting the presence of a prion protein in said biological fluid.